

Ramos for being honored with the TOP COP award for 2006. He is an exemplary police officer whose dedicated and fearless service is keeping the people of southern California safe.

RECOGNIZING BRITTNEY LOCH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brittney Loch of Maryville, Missouri. Over the past few months, Brittney has served as my office intern. She has handled her responsibilities with class and enthusiasm. Her efforts to represent my office have been commended by both my staff and our constituents.

As a student at Drake University, Brittney has been pursuing a degree in Political Science and came to Washington, DC through the Washington Semester Program to study Public Law. Her ambition and interest in politics have been evident since the first time I met her years ago. Her commitment to public service and her enthusiasm in helping the people of the 6th District is something to be admired.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Brittney Loch. She has been great to have in the office and her efforts are much appreciated. I have no doubt that her dreams of working in Congress will be fulfilled. She will certainly be missed and I would like to ask the House of Representatives to join me in thanking her for all of her hard work and dedication. I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LEVON HELM AND THE DECLARATION OF LEVON HELM DAY IN WOODSTOCK, NEW YORK

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable and talented man, a man who I am proud to call my friend, Mr. Levon Helm.

Levon once said of the music of Bill Monroe and His Blue Grass Boys, "it really tattooed my brain." That's how I feel about Levon's music, which I have had the pleasure of enjoying since the late 1960s, when he recorded "Music from Big Pink" in West Saugerties, New York.

Levon Helm was born on May 26, 1940 in Elaine, Arkansas. From an early age, Levon had a musical gift. He performed all over Arkansas with his sister Linda, entertaining crowds with a homemade string bass, harmonica and guitar. As a teenager he formed his own band, The Jungle Bush Beaters, and honed his musical gift by watching entertainers such as Johnny Cash, Little Richard, Jerry Lee Lewis, and a young Elvis Presley.

After The Jungle Bush Beaters, Levon joined The Hawks, which recorded such hits as "Forty Days" and "Mary Lou." The Hawks sold 750,000 copies of their record and appeared on Dick Clark's American Bandstand.

After splitting with The Hawks' founder, Ronnie Hawkins, Levon and his band mates signed on as Bob Dylan's backup band, and followed Dylan to West Saugerties, New York, where they took up residence in a pink house, wrote and rehearsed. The group became known simply as The Band, and the outcome of that period was one of the most important albums of the 20th century, "Music from Big Pink." It was the album that introduced Levon Helm to America, and it introduced me to their amazing sound.

Luckily for Levon, he didn't put his roots down in the Hudson Valley just yet. While working in Los Angeles in 1974, he met the lovely Sandra Dodd who would become his wife seven years later. I am happy to know her and call her a friend.

The Band continued to prosper in the early 1970s and in 1975, the barn and studio that Levon built in Woodstock was complete. Unfortunately it was just a year later that we said goodbye to The Band, but it would not be goodbye for Levon Helm.

Over the next seven years, Levon continued pursuing his own musical career with cutting-edge albums like "The RCO All-Stars," the self-titled "Levon Helm" and "American Son." Then in 1984, much to their fans' delight, The Band reunited, performing together and recording three more albums.

In 1996, Levon was diagnosed with throat cancer, and we all feared we would never hear his voice again, but he miraculously recovered, and I, and so many others, still enjoy Levon's music at the Midnight Rambles he holds in his studio in Woodstock.

For the past 30 years, Levon has been much more than our famous neighbor in Woodstock. He has, quietly and unobtrusively, been a very generous and committed member of our community. He has worked hard for and supported cancer centers, local little leagues, volunteer firefighters, members of the armed forces and school music programs.

It is because of this great man, and the great music he produces that the Village of Woodstock, New York, has declared May 20 as Levon Helm Day. It continues to be an honor and a great pleasure for so many of us in New York and across America to bear witness to the incredible career and life of this very strong, extremely talented and generous man. I look forward to many more Midnight Rambles.

IN HONOR OF BLAIR L. SADLER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to congratulate Blair L. Sadler, who has been the President and Chief Executive Officer of Children's Hospital and Health Center of San Diego since 1980. Mr. Sadler celebrates his retirement after more than a quarter of a century of service in the field of pediatric healthcare.

A native of New York City, Blair graduated from Amherst College with a bachelor's degree in economics and received his Juris Doc-

torate from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He served as a law clerk with the Superior Court of Pennsylvania and as a medical-legal specialist for the National Institutes of Health. He was an Assistant Professor at Yale University for 3 years and served for 4 years as Assistant Vice President at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in Princeton, New Jersey. Prior to his appointment at Children's Hospital, Blair served as Vice President and Director of the hospital and clinics at Scripps Clinical and Research Foundation for 3 years.

Before coming to California, Blair had already established a national and international reputation in several fields, including organ transplantation, physician assistant programs, and emergency medical care and trauma services. While at the National Institutes of Health, with his physician twin brother, he was very involved in writing a model organ donation law that was adopted in all 50 states and published leading articles on transplantation and the law. While on the Yale University Medical School faculty, he co-authored two books *The Physician's Assistant—Today and Tomorrow* and *Emergency Medical Care: The Neglected Public Service*, which were widely utilized. At the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, he designed and led their first national competitive grants program in regional emergency medical communication systems that became a model for the Foundation's work.

His many accomplishments show a deep commitment to improving healthcare. He has skillfully integrated quantitative indicators along with qualitative elements to fashion a truly unique healing experience for the patients at Children's Hospitals.

Under his leadership, Children's has become one of the leading pediatric hospitals in America and was the country's first children's hospital to receive the prestigious Ernest A. Codman Award in recognition for its pioneering work in quality of care. Children's is the major pediatric partner of the entire Sharp and Scripps health care systems and, in 2001, signed a historic agreement combining the UCSD pediatric programs with Children's.

Blair's leadership has enabled Children's to grow and develop as one of the Nation's best pediatric hospitals and, during his tenure, Children's has provided care for more than a million children in the San Diego region since 1980. Children's has added many nationally recognized programs and services and has developed strong collaborative relationships with virtually every healthcare provider in San Diego. While Blair has been at the helm, the hospital has planned and constructed more than 200,000 square feet of facilities and he has championed a healing environment for Children's.

Thanks to Blair's vision, Children's is not just a conglomeration of buildings; it represents a model healing environment for kids and their families. In 1999, Children's built the first healing garden in an American children's hospital and there are now four gardens on its campus. In 2001, in partnership with the non-profit Society for the Arts in Healthcare, he created and personally funded the Blair L. Sadler Healing Arts Award program that annually recognizes professional and student artists who have made measurable contributions to improved health care through the arts.

On behalf of the people of San Diego, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation